Introduction of Crop Insurance Scheme

*56. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce Crop Insurance Scheme covering most backward districts;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the schemes such as a market intervention scheme for potatoes, a scheme to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras in each district etc. proposed by the Ministry have been vetoed by the Finance Ministry; and

(d) if so, the grounds on which the aforesaid schemes have not been approved by the Finance Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) A proposal for the introduction of an Experimental Corp Insurance Scheme (ECIS) covering loance as well as non-loanee small and marginal farmers in 24 selected districts of 8 States to be implemented from Rabi 1997-98 has been approved by the Government of India. Under the ECIS all the loanee as well as non loanee small and marginal farmers growing cereals, pulses and oilseeds would be covered. The entire amount of insurance charges payable by the small and marginal farmers will be borne by the Central and the State Governments. The pattern of sharing of the financial liability including 100% subsidy on account of insurance charges between the Central and the State Governments would be in the ratio of 8:2. The scheme will be implemented, as far as possible, over a lower unit area preferably a Gram Panchayat subject to the availability of required yield data.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Agriculture has made several proposals for accelerating the growth of agriculture in the country particularly in the Eastern and North Eastern States. These include a proposal for implementing Market Intervention Scheme for crops such as potatoes, with a more liberal assistance from the Central Government to the financially weaker North-Eastern Region. A proposal in this regard has been submitted to the Ministry of Finance.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras. At present there are only 54 KVKs in the entire Eastern and North-Eastern Region. Keeping in view the vast geographical area covered and the agro-economic diversity of Eastern Region, Ministry of Agriculture has proposed to establish 12 additional KVKs with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 25 crores during the current year.

Konark Temple

*57. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Konark Temple in Orissa is likely to be dismantled to check damage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to repair the temple under the World Heritage list of UNESCO?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Some investigations are necessary for determining future conservation of the monument for which a grant of US $ 39,000 has been approved by UNESCO. The investigations will, inter alia, include stabilization of one of the existing holes in the 'Jagamohana' of the Temple to enable visual inspection and assessment within of the structural conservation required.

Vacation of leased lands by Oil Companies

*58. SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the grounds and the circumstances under which the oil Companies vacate the

leased lands occupied by them for operating petrol pumps upon their closure; and

(b) the grounds and the circumstances under which Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. closed down the petrol pump in front of Anna Arivalayam (Headquarters of DMK party) Anna Salai, Chennai, vacated and handed over the site and the terms and conditions stipulated for such closure/vacation respectively and whether the same have been complied with?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The grounds on which the oil companies vacate the retail outlet leased site are generally as follows:—

(i) Based on Court orders.

(ii) On expiry of lease of land and legal opinion that no legal recourse is available for holding on to the site.

(iii) As per the guidelines, surrender of land to the landlord may be considered if an alternate site is offered by the landlord, and the original land has to be vacated on expiry of lease.

(iv) if the retail outlet operation becomes unviable at the site due to:

(a) Closure of roads/particular traffic.

(b) Shifting of octroi post/revision in octroi rates.

(c) Realignment of the existing road by a new one.

(d) Reasons beyond the control of the oil companies/dealer which may affect the viability of the retail outlet due to exhorbitant increase in rentals etc.

(e) It the Retail Outlet is declared as objectionable at the site by a competent authority like Collector/Dist. Magistrate/Chief Controller of Explosives etc.

(b) The HPCL Retail Outlet, M/s Balaji Agencies was operative at site opposite Anna Arivalayam at Anna Salai, Chennai. The site was taken on lease by erstwhile CALTEX for period of 10 years w.e.f. 22-10-62. During the currency of the lease the site was purchased by the DMK Charitable Trust. On refusal of Trust to register the deed for option period of 22.10.72 to 21.10.82, CALTEX filed a specific performance suit against the Trust. After nationalisation of the Caltex, statutory option under Caltex Take Over Act was exercised for a period of 10 years upto 21.10.92. Thereafter, on expiry of lease, the HPCL vacated the site and resited it to Anna Nagar, Chennai. The Retail Outlet was commissioned in April, 1992.

Appointment of a Judicial Commission on Safety

*59. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to appoint a Judicial Commission to go into all aspects of safety and make suitable recommendations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Concession for North-East

*60. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of Railways have announced more concessions for North-east;

(b) if so, the details of concessions; and

(c) what are the steps being taken to provide railway lines to link all the North-east State Capitals?